

CONGRATULATING ALBERT PUJOLS ON BEING NAMED THE MOST VALUABLE PLAYER FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR THE 2005 MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SEASON

SPEECH OF

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 6, 2006*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 626 introduced by my distinguished colleague from Missouri. This resolution will recognize the efforts and achievements of the 2005 National League Most Valuable Player, the legendary St. Louis Cardinals infielder, Albert Pujols.

The professional career and life pursuits of Albert Pujols exemplify nothing short of perseverance, skill, and integrity. His statistics for the first 5 years of his career rank amongst the best in baseball history with a .332 career batting average, 201 home runs and 621 RBI's. Pujols is distinguished as being the only player to have a batting average higher than .300—and to have hit over 30 home runs—and to have driven in over 100 runs in each of his first 5 seasons. He was recipient of the 2001 Rookie of the Year Award for the National League, 2003 National League batting champion, and the Most Valuable Player of the 2004 National League Championship Series. Pujols throughout his athletic career has demonstrated the highest level of sportsmanship and showmanship—earning him the Most Valuable Player of the 2005 National League Championship Series.

In an exceptional 2005 campaign Pujols established career highs in walks and stolen bases. With 41 home runs and 16 stolen bases, he became just the second Cardinal to finish with at least 40 home runs and 15 stolen bases in a single season, after Rogers Hornsby in 1922. Pujols finished second in the National League with a .330 batting average—hitting his 200th career homer along with a grand slam. Additionally, but not understated, Pujols finished with 117 RBI's, 97 walks, and a career low 38 doubles caused by nagging injuries.

Cardinals' fans were given even more ammunition to celebrate in 2005, because Albert Pujols' Most Valuable Player recognition marks the first time that the Cardinals have had both a Most Valuable Player and Cy Young award winner-pitcher, Chris Carpenter in the same year.

Pujols' characteristics and accomplishments are not limited to his accolades on the field. Off the field Pujols and his wife, Deidre, have three children: Isabella, A.J. Alberto Jr., and their newest addition Sophia. Both Pujols and his wife are generous and active supporters of community issues and in 2005 established the Pujols Family Foundation. The Foundation is dedicated to the "love, care and development of people with Down Syndrome and also reaches out to impoverished families in the Dominican Republic."

Recently Pujols became the third fastest player in major league history to reach 25 home runs in a season and was on pace to hit a record breaking 82 home runs—before an oblique injury—which would have surpassed the single-season home run record of 73 home runs held by Barry Bonds.

Albert Pujols has become a role model and an inspiration to his fans, and others, through his many outstanding achievements. I congratulate him on his 2005 successes both on and off the field, and we all wish him a speedy recovery and a quick return from his present injuries. He is truly a modern American hero and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

HONORING DR. ALLAN ROSENFELD

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Allan Rosenfield on his 20th anniversary as Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University.

As Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health and professor of obstetrics and gynecology, Dr. Rosenfield is a true giant in the fields of population, reproductive rights, health policy and human rights.

Throughout his career, he has fought against the global gag rule; worked around the world on issues of family planning and maternal and children's health, and been recognized as a pioneer for his work on maternal mortality.

During his distinguished career, one common denominator is found throughout his work—he embraces the needs of the people least likely to receive care. Dr. Rosenfield is a man who sees need and steps up to the plate to enact change.

Dr. Rosenfield is an extraordinary man whose courage and dedication have inspired all who know him. Among his many admirable traits, there is one I am particularly happy to share with him—his strong belief in the power of humankind kind to change the world for the better.

I am honored to not only know Dr. Rosenfield, the highly respected and dedicated academic, but to call him my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the tremendous career of Dr. Allan Rosenfield and to congratulate him on his 20th year as Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health.

TRIBUTE TO TARA ELIZABETH CONNER, MISS USA 2006

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tara Elizabeth Connor, a native of Russell Springs, Kentucky, who was recently crowned Miss USA 2006.

The entire Bluegrass State celebrated on April 21, when Tara not only captured the Miss USA title but also became the first Kentuckian in the pageant's 54-year history to do so. Although she is only 20 years old, Tara showed remarkable composure during the week-long Miss USA competition, which culminated in the nationally televised pageant on NBC.

A 2004 graduate of Russell County High School, Tara was able to realize her dream of becoming Miss USA through the tried and true formula of hard work, determination and pure talent that has marked generations of accomplished Kentuckians. As the reigning Miss USA, Tara intends to use her celebrity platform to raise awareness about breast cancer. I have no doubt that she will perform her newfound responsibilities with the same mix of energy and enthusiasm that she used to capture the Miss USA title.

While millions of Americans now know her as a "beauty" queen, those that know Tara best see her for what she really is—a down-to-earth Kentucky girl who is dedicated to her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Tara Connor on her honor as Miss USA 2006. Tara has made all of Kentucky proud, and I wish her the very best as she pursues her bright future.

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS H.R. 5441

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 7, 2006*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I supported the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill (H.R. 5441). The bill provided \$33.1 billion for our Nation's homeland security. These funds will help our Federal, State and local first responders react to both natural disasters and terrorist events. Yet, funds appropriated in this bill represent only a 5 percent increase from the funds we appropriated last year and do not fully meet the homeland security needs of our country. Even though I supported the bill, I believe that we can and we should do more.

I am disappointed that Ranking Member OBEY's amendment to add \$3.5 billion to the bill for transit security, border security, port security, first responders, and preparedness programs was rejected along party lines by the Homeland Security Appropriations Committee and was prohibited from being offered. These programs are essential to strong and robust hometown security. This indispensable funding would have been easily paid for by rolling back the tax savings that taxpayers with incomes over \$1 million today received under the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts.

I am glad that this bill provides \$19.6 billion for border security. This represents a 9 percent increase from current funding and shows that the House takes seriously the challenges we face in securing our Nation's borders. Yet it still falls short of the request made by President Bush.

This bill also includes \$4.2 billion for port and cargo security, which is a 12 percent increase over last year. After the controversy over the D.P. World's attempt to acquire operating control of a number of U.S. ports earlier this year, Congress finally recognized the need to invest in container inspection and radiological detection. This bill also includes increased funding for grants to State and local governments to improve port security. But more needs to be done.

I was troubled that for the third year in a row DHS's rail and transit security grant program was flat funded at \$150 million. This bill